



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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## PRESS RELEASE

### **USAID assists the Cross-Border Trade Facilitation with New Online System**

USAID has assisted the Government of Macedonia and the Customs Administration to streamline the complex and complicated procedures for export/import licenses and quotas by introducing an on-line application. The technical assistance was provided through the USAID-funded eGov Project and Business Environment Activity (BEA). The system was implemented in close cooperation with sixteen government institutions and it included harmonization and simplification of the legal and administrative procedures, as well as transformation of the application and approval process from paper to electronic. The result is a powerful tool that will enable businesses to engage in cross-border transactions much faster and at a much lower cost than ever before.

"One of the key objectives of the US government in Macedonia is to stimulate economic growth. To do this, we work together to improve the conditions for doing business, to improve business competitiveness and to build linkages with foreign partners. Together with the government, we are focusing on legal reforms and streamlining the bureaucratic processes in order to ease burdens on companies and investors and to bring transparency to these processes. Information and communication technology is an excellent tool to achieve increased transparency and efficiency in provision of government services" says Philip Reeker US Ambassador to Macedonia.

The technical assistance provided through the USAID-funded eGov Project ([www.eGov.org.mk](http://www.eGov.org.mk)) and Business Environment Activity ([www.BEA.org.mk](http://www.BEA.org.mk)) will enable Macedonian companies involved in foreign trade to electronically apply and obtain import, export and transit licenses from fifteen government institutions involved in foreign trade regulation. The system is available at [www.exim.gov.mk](http://www.exim.gov.mk).

This application is part of the Trade Facilitation Single Window initiative implemented by the Government of Macedonia. The Project is coordinated by the Customs Administration.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that increase investment, create jobs, reduce corruption and improve the quality of education in Macedonia. These initiatives support Macedonia's transition to a stable democracy and its successful integration into the European Union. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.